

John A. McKean House, Outbuilding
River Street Historic District
85 N. River Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2377-A-

HABS
CAL
43-SANJOS,
18A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

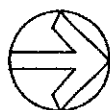
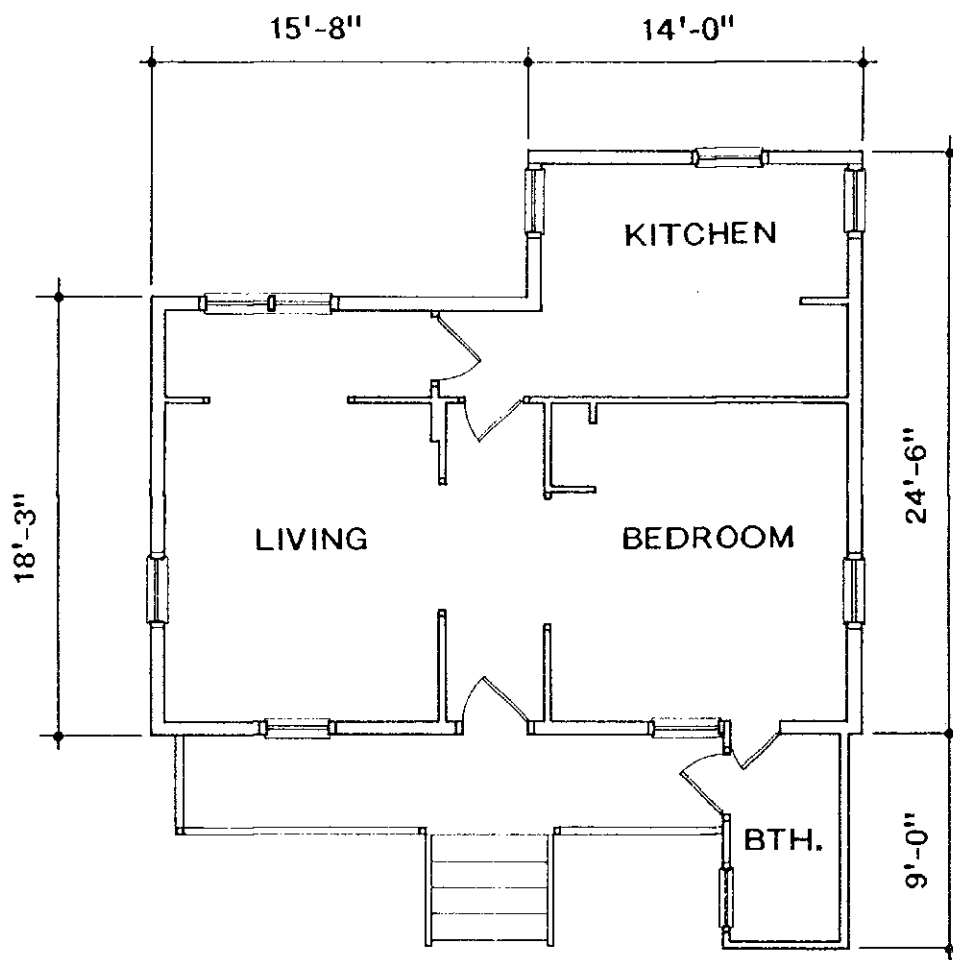
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

John A. McKean House, Outbuilding

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- Location:** 85 North River Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, Santa Clara County, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597640-4132360
- Significance:** The John A. McKean House Outbuilding, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.
- Description:** The John A. McKean House Outbuilding is a single story wood frame cottage with a rectangular plan and hip roof. A hip roofed porch extends across the front facade and is supported by plain square posts with some ornamental detailing on the balustrade. The wood double hung windows are one over one. The original portion of the cottage contained a central hall and two rooms to each side. Later modifications include the addition of a bathroom shed in the front, a kitchen enlargement to the rear, and the insertion of partition walls and closets in the two main rooms.
- History:** The cottage dates from c. 1880 and would thus appear to pre-date the main house, which was constructed around 1885 and owned for many decades by John A. McKean, a brakeman for the Southern Pacific Railway Company. The McKeans started taking in boarders in 1917 and in 1922 moved next door to 83 North River Street--a property owned by John's wife Nellie McKean. The cottage (and the main house) continued to be occupied by various tenants up through the 1950s, when the directories listed either two or three tenants. Presumably when two tenants were listed they occupied the house and the cottage; with three tenants listed it would appear that the divided main house was used as a duplex.
- Sources:** California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by Stephen O. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories.
San Jose 1924 Block Map.
Evaluation of the district's outbuildings prepared by Basin Research Associates, 1990.
- Historian:** Hardlines: Design & Oelineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1' - 0''$